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YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

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ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. J. TATE, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

W. EMLYN JONES

FOR THE YEAR

1950

THE MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1950.

The housing problem is still a very serious matter and a large percentage of the existing houses are occupied by more than one family and there are also a number of sub-standard houses which should be considered for demolition when conditions permit. In the difficult task of rehousing careful consideration is given to those families that live in overcrowded conditions and particularly those that have cases of Tuberculosis patients that cannot be properly isolated.

The health of the district during the year has on the whole been good. There has been an absence of any serious outbreaks of epidemic diseases and the majority of deaths during the year have been in the higher age group. The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low and cases occurring here have been adequately and quickly dealt with by the Chest Physician at the Craig-y-Nos Sanatorium and its chest clinic for out-patients. The number of silicosis and pneumoconiosis cases particularly among the older coal miners is naturally high in an anthracite district of this nature.

There are seven piped water supplies in the area five of which are chlorinated and samples of the water are being taken monthly. Practically the whole of the district has been sewered and large extensions to the sewage disposal plant are now being carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. TATE, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS.

The District consists of two Parishes, Ystradgynlais Higher and Ystradgynlais Lower their respective areas being 13,182 and 9,016 acres, a total of 22,198 acres.

Population.—11,650.

Industries.—Ystradgynlais Lower is more industrial in nature than Ystradgynlais Higher and is more thickly populated. The chief industries are coal mining, watch making, quarrying and agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births:—

(a) Live Births:—

Total	... 157 ... 154	legitimate; 3 illegitimate
Males	... 81 ... 79	legitimate; 2 illegitimate
Females	... 76 ... 75	legitimate; 1 illegitimate

(b) Still Births:—Males 3; Female 3.

Deaths.—Total 135: Males 78; Females 57.

Causes of Death:—

	Males	Females
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2 ...	1
Tuberculosis: Other forms	— ...	1
Syphilitic Disease	— ...	—
Influenza	— ...	—
Acute Polio Myel.	— ...	—
Cancer of Uterus and Oesoph.	— ...	—
Cancer of Stomach	4 ...	1
Cancer of Breast	— ...	—
Cancer: Other sites	5 ...	4
Diabetes	— ...	—
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	7 ...	7
Heart Disease	7 ...	16
Disease of Circulatory System	15 ...	4
Bronchitis	8 ...	2
Pneumonia	4 ...	1
Leukaemia	1 ...	0
Other Respiratory Diseases	7 ...	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	— ...	—
Appendicitis	— ...	—
Other Digestive Diseases	— ...	—
Nephritis	6 ...	1
Premature Birth	— ...	—
Con. Mal. Birth inj.	— ...	2
Road Accidents	1 ...	0
Other violent causes	3 ...	1
Other causes	7 ...	16
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1 ...	—
Suicide	— ...	—
Total ...	78 ...	57

Infectious Disease.—The incidence of infectious diseases was remarkably low the chief epidemics being Measles and Scarlet Fever.

Chief Notifiable Diseases:—

Measles	157	Tuberculosis	19
Scarlet Fever	4	Pneumonia	—
Vericella	—	Poliomyelitis	2
Whooping Cough	1	Erysipelas	1
Diphtheria	1	Meningitis	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases Notified:—

	Male		Female		Total
Respiratory	9	.....	5	.....	14
Non-Respiratory	3	.....	2	.....	5

Deaths:—

	Male		Female		Total
Respiratory	2	.....	1	.....	3
Non-Respiratory .....	—	.....	1	.....	1

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

General Medical—Dr. A. F. Sladden, Beck Laboratory, General Hospital, Swansea.

Water Supplies—Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.

Milk—(a) Resasurin Test:

Ministry of Agriculture Area Laboratory,
Brecon.

(b) Tubercilin Test:

Aberystwyth University Laboratories.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

(a) Maternity.—This is administered by the County Council. The scheme is totally inadequate and unsatisfactory. We are dependent on there being accommodation in hospitals of other counties and it is only complicated cases they are prepared to take.

(b) General.—General Hospital Facilities are on the whole satisfactory and adequate but waiting lists for admission are long especially for orthopaedic and gynaecological cases. Hospitals serving the area are:

Welsh Regional Hospital Board.

(c) Tuberculosis.—Sanatorium at Craigynos is administered by the Welsh National Memorial Association which also has charge of the area clinics.

(d) Mental Diseases.—Cases cared for at the County Mental Hospital, Talgarth.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The District has seven piped supplies, five of which are chlorinated and samples are taken periodically for Bacteriological analysis.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1950.

During the year 75 families were rehoused on Council Estates, twenty of which were from the mining village of Colbren and by this the most crying needs of this part of the district were met. The new Housing Site at Minyrhos was also occupied, mainly by coal miners from the adjacent Ynyscedwyn Colliery. Between the new sites at Colbren and Minyrhos the mining families were well catered for during the year.

With the completion of the new sewer in the Parish of Ystradgynlais Higher the task of connecting private houses was begun and before the end of the year 73 new houses had already been connected to the sewer. No serious difficulty was met with and it is hoped to have the work completed next year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,

Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Housing Inspections and Re-inspections (Housing Acts and Public Health Acts)	741
Drainage	263
Infectious Diseases	22
Verminous Premises	1
Farms, Cowsheds and Dairies	4
Factories and Workshops	2
Food Premises	39
Bakehouses	4
Refuse Collection and Disposal	118
Inspections under Infestation Order	18
Miscellaneous Visits	302
Total ...	1514

1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses.

(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected during the year (Public Health and Housing Acts)	690
(b) Number of Inspections for the purpose	741

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	71
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1.—Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
2.—Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices	71
(a) By owners	71
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1.—Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	11
2.—Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	9
3.—Statutory Notice served under Water Act ...	Nil
4.—Number complied	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1.—Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
2.—Number of Separate Tenements in underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	1

Notices Served.

Under the Housing Acts:

Number of Informal Notices served	4
Number of Informal Notices complied with ...	2
Number of Formal Notices served	Nil
Number of Formal Notices complied with ...	Nil

Under the Public Health Acts:

Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	85
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	69
Number of Formal Notices served	...	...	19
Number of Formal Notices complied with	...	...	7

Public Cleansing.—Two lorries are in operation and a part-time man is employed to look after the Refuse Tips. With the completion of more houses on Council Estates the amount of refuse collected increases correspondingly every year; a little over 1,000 tons more being collected this year than last. The Rodent Operator pays close attention to the tips and the rat population is now nothing like what it was only a few years ago. The number of loads carried to the tips amounted to 2,976, the total tonnage being 6,539 tons.

Disinfection.—Disinfection was carried out in 15 houses following cases of infectious diseases. The houses were sprayed and fumigated and a free supply of disinfectant given the occupiers for further use.

Disinfestation.—49 houses were disinfested with DDT solution with excellent results in all cases.

School Milks.—44 samples of Pasteurized Milk supplied to local Schools were sent for the Phosphatase Test 38 of which were proved to be satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act.—Visits were made to butchers' shops, ice cream premises, fried fish shops and other food stores. The following articles were condemned as unfit for human food:—

Bacon, 51 lbs.	Peas, 6 tins.
Baked Beans, 9 tins.	Pie Crust, 10 pkts.
Beef Sausages, 18 lbs.	Pilchards, 3 tins.
Beet, 51 tins.	Pineapples, 4 tins.
Carrots, 5 tins.	Plums, 2 tins.
Cheese, 25 lbs.	Potatoes, 80 tins.
Fruit Cake, 100 lbs.	Pudding Powders, 48 pkts.
Flour, 70 lbs.	Sweets, 17 lbs.
Ham, 10 lbs.	Tinned Meat, 22 tins.
Milk, 29 tins	Tomatoes, 25 tins.
Peaches, 1 tin.	Wheatmeal, 140 lbs.

30 samples of ice cream from all local manufacturers were sent for the Methylene Blue Test and the results being as follows:—

Grade 1.—Satisfactory	...	...	9
Grade 2.—Fair	...	...	10
Grade 3.—Unsatisfactory	...	...	6
Grade 4.—Very Unsatisfactory	...	...	5

42 Samples of water were sent for bacteriological analysis and the results were as follows:—

Date.	Water Supply	Result
6/1/50	... Nantmarl	Satisfactory
6/1/50	... Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
6/1/50	... Colbren	Satisfactory
6/1/50	... Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
25/1/50	... Ffrydiau Twrch	Unsatisfactory
25/1/50	... Garwleisiau	Unsatisfactory
14/2/50	... Lion Supply	Satisfactory
14/2/50	... Ffrydiau Twrch	Unsatisfactory
1/3/50	... Colbren	Satisfactory
1/3/50	... Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
1/3/50	... Nantmarl	Doubtful
15/3/50	... Lion Supply	Unsatisfactory
29/3/50	... Nantmarl	Satisfactory
29/3/50	... Lion Supply	Unsatisfactory
29/3/50	... Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
19/4/50	... Colbren	Satisfactory
19/4/50	... Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
15/5/50	... Lion Supply	Satisfactory
15/5/50	... Nantmarl	Unsatisfactory
15/5/50	... Ffrydiau Twrch	Unsatisfactory
7/6/50	... Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
7/6/50	... Garwleisiau	Unsatisfactory
7/6/50	... Colbren	Satisfactory
5/7/50	... Nantmarl	Satisfactory
5/7/50	... Lion Supply	Unsatisfactory
5/7/50	... Ffrydiau Twrch	Unsatisfactory
2/8/50	... Colbren	Satisfactory
2/8/50	... Nantmarl	Satisfactory
6/9/50	... Colbren	Satisfactory
6/9/50	... Colbren	Satisfactory
6/9/50	... Cwmtwrch (Swansea)	Satisfactory
4/10/50	... Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
4/10/50	... Cwmtwrch (Llandilo)...	Satisfactory
17/10/50	... Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
17/10/50	... Colbren	Satisfactory
17/10/50	... Nantmarl	Unsatisfactory
8/11/50	... Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
8/11/50	... Lion	Unsatisfactory
8/11/50	... Ffrydiau Twrch	Unsatisfactory
15/11/50	... Colbren	Satisfactory
16/12/50	... Colbren	Satisfactory
16/12/50	... Ffrydiau Twrch	Unsatisfactory
16/12/50	... Garwleisiau	Unsatisfactory

Housing.—690 houses were inspected during the year and 71 houses were made fit as a result of informal action taken. 91 Informal Notices were served in respect of repairs and of these 71 were complied with. Inspections were also made in respect of overcrowding and a large number of visits were made to Council houses in respect of general cleanliness, etc. I am pleased to report that in the main the Council's houses are occupied by good tenants who take pride in their homes and are a credit to themselves and to the Council. However there are a small minority in this, as in everything else, who fall below standard and in one or two cases if improvements are not effected it may come about that action will have to be taken by the Council.

75 families were rehoused by the Council and the 20 occupied at Colbren have proved a boon in that area where some families were occupying very dilapidated corrugated iron huts, while others were living in apartments under very unsatisfactory conditions. The Airey houses at Minyrhos were also occupied during the year mainly by miners working in the nearby Ynyscedwyn Colliery.

Rodent Control.—The work of the Rodent Operator during the year is summarised as follows:—

	No. Treated	Points Laid	Estimated Killed	Bodies Found
Sewers	All Sections	620	203	31
Refuse Tips	18	549	514	137
River Banks	—	341	404	82
Private Premises	377	2174	2192	422
Business Premises	19	562	346	62
Totals ...	414	4246	3659	734

Rainfall.—Rainfall figures for the year:—

January	2.40 ins.	July	5.32 ins.
February	8.10 „	August	12.02 „
March	4.29 „	September	9.98 „
April	4.33 „	October	6.13 „
May	2.49 „	November	7.32 „
June	3.36 „	December	4.39 „

Total for
the year ... 70.13 ins.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,
Sanitary Inspector.

"South Wales Voice"